

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following amended title:

~~SPEECH SYNTHESIS DEVICE, SPEECH SYNTHESIS METHOD, AND~~
~~PROGRAM~~ FOR SYNTHESIZING MISSING PARTS

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 28 and 29 with the following amended paragraph:

The search section 6 searches the voice unit database 7 in response to the instruction of the voice unit editor 5 to retrieve the corresponding compressed voice unit data and the above-described voice unit reading data, speed initial value data and pitch component data that are associated with the compressed voice unit data. The search section 6 then supplies the retrieved compressed waveform data to the decompression section [[43]] 8. When a plurality of compressed voice unit data correspond to a common phonogram or phonogram string, all of the compressed voice unit data in question are retrieved as candidates for data to be used in the speech synthesis. In contrast, when a voice unit exists for which compressed voice unit data could not be retrieved, the search section 6 generates data that identifies the voice unit in question (hereunder, referred to as "missing part identification data").

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

The decompression section [[43]] 8 decompresses the compressed voice unit data that was supplied by the search section 6 to restore the voice unit data to the same condition as prior to compression, and returns this data to the search section 6. The search section 6 supplies the voice unit data that was returned by the decompression section [[43]] 8 and the retrieved voice unit reading data, speed initial value data and pitch component data to the utterance speed converter 9 as the search result. When the search section 6 generated missing part identification data, it also supplies the missing part identification data to the utterance speed converter 9.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 41, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The waveform database 44 comprises a non-volatile memory such as a PROM or a hard disk device. In the waveform database 44, phonograms and compressed waveform data obtained by entropy coding of phoneme fragment waveform data representing phoneme fragments that comprise phonemes (i.e. the speech of one cycle of a waveform of speech comprising a single phoneme (or the cycle amount of another predetermined number)) representing the phonograms are stored after being previously associated with each other by the manufacturer of this speech synthesis system or the like. In this connection, the phoneme fragment waveform data prior to entropy coding may comprise, for example, digital format data that was subjected to [[PCM]] PCM.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

Similarly to the search section 6 of the first embodiment, the search section 6 searches the voice unit database 7 in response to the instruction of the matching voice unit decision section 51 to retrieve the corresponding compressed voice unit data and the above-described voice unit reading data, speed initial value data and pitch component data that are associated with the compressed voice unit data. The search section 6 then supplies the retrieved compressed waveform data to the decompression section ~~[[43]]~~ 8. When a voice unit exists for which compressed voice unit data could not be retrieved, the search section 6 generates missing part identification data that identifies the voice unit in question.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 48 and 49, with the following amended paragraph:

The decompression section ~~[[43]]~~ 8 decompresses the compressed voice unit data supplied by the search section 6 to restore the voice unit data to the same condition as prior to compression, and returns this data to the search section 6. The search section 6 supplies the voice unit data that was returned by the decompression section ~~[[43]]~~ 8 and the retrieved voice unit reading data, speed initial value data and pitch component data to the utterance speed converter 9 as the search result. When the search section 6 generated missing part identification data, it also supplies the missing part identification data to the utterance speed converter 9.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

When there are a plurality of voice unit data that match the criteria indicated by the collating level data for a single voice unit, these plurality of voice unit data are narrowed down to a single candidate in accordance with conditions that are more stringent ~~[[that]]~~ than the set conditions.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 73 and 74, with the following amended paragraph:

More specifically, in step S606 the personal computer, for example, identifies voice unit data in accordance with the conditions of the above-described (1) to (3) by performing processing that is the same as the processing of the above step S306. When there are a plurality of voice unit data that match the criteria indicated by the collating level data for a single voice unit, these plurality of voice unit data are narrowed down to a single candidate in accordance with conditions that are more stringent ~~[[that]]~~ than the set conditions. Further, when a voice unit exists for which voice unit data fulfilling the conditions corresponding to the collating level data value could not be selected, the personal computer handles the voice unit in question as a voice unit for which compressed voice unit data could not be retrieved and, for example, generates missing part identification data.